Agricultural producers purchase energy inputs, such as fuel and electricity along with even more energy intensive inputs such as fertilizers and pesticides. These agricultural inputs are produced using oil and natural gas. Changes in energy prices can greatly affect the agriculture sector. Over the years the agriculture community has been offered and many have taken advantage of free energy audits. Page 2 provides information on how to participate in a free energy audit of your farm. Energy efficiencies not only have the potential to save on the operations bottom line but also help reduce impact on the climate.

Cover crops have a variety of names including green manure and living mulch; regardless of what you call them they have the potential to provide multiple benefits in a cropping system. They prevent erosion, improve soil’s physical and biological properties, supply nutrients, suppress weeds, improve the availability of soil water, and break pest cycles along with various other benefits. Page 3 reviews the findings of research on the true value of cover crops.

In case you have missed it….effective July 11th there are changes to endorsements for farm vehicles. Be sure to take a few minutes to review the information on Page 4 and 5 to make sure you are not caught off guard.

Do you grow garlic? Page 5 has some information for garlic growers and causes of “weak garlic” which can impact next year’s crop.

Keeping everyone safe on the farm is critical. Last year many took advantage of a special training for firefighters and EMS personnel at Empire Farm Days using a grain bin rescue simulator. The simulator will again return to Empire Farm Days, Page 6 has more information. Please encourage those who were not available for last year’s training to attend or perhaps even do a refresher!

REMINDER: New York FarmNet is available 24 hours a day 7 days a week to confidentially assist farmers with financial and personal issues. If you, a farm family member or neighbor needs help do not hesitate to reach out to Farm Net at 1-800-547-3276- more information can be found on Page 6.

How does your dairy farm compare to your neighbors in north western New York? Page 7 shares some preliminary results from 2015. These are great benchmarking tools you can take advantage of.

Are you a small to mid-size farm interested in exploring wholesale markets? The “Baskets to Pallets” Teaching Manual is available through Cornell’s Small Farm a Program- Page 7 has ordering information.

Owners of horses should be aware that equine infectious anemia (EIA) was confirmed in Cortland County. This disease can be transmitted by blood sucking insects; Page 8 has more information; if you are concerned be sure to talk with your veterinarian.

Late Breaking News...

The federal Environmental Program Agency (EPA) issued a new Worker Protection Standard (WPS) rule, which effects farms on which pesticides are used in the production of agricultural crops. A majority of the rule revisions will go into effect on January 2, 2017. Detailed information about these changes can be found on the EPA website at https://www.epa.gov/pesticide-worker-safety/revisions-worker-protection-standard.

DEC plans to have a number of outreach sessions this summer and autumn pertaining to the new requirements found in the WPS. These training sessions are intended for those who use pesticides at agricultural facilities growing crops, and for owners/managers of farms that are responsible for the use of pesticides at their facilities.
Below is a list of upcoming events that we thought might be important to you! If you have further questions or need to clarify any information, you can always check out our website [http://blogs.cornell.edu/cccecayuga](http://blogs.cornell.edu/cccecayuga), go to the Ag Calendar under the Agriculture tab on top. We try our best to keep information as up-to-date as possible so that you have a quick, easy reference available 24/7. Of course, you can always call our office with any questions or concerns you might have at 315-255-1183, Judy Wright (Ext. 234) or Keith Severson (Ext. 225)—be sure and leave a message with your phone number.

July 14 ............ **Aurora Farm Field Day**. Held from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. at the Musgrave Research Farm, 1256 Poplar Ridge Road, Aurora, NY. DEC Pesticide Recertification and CCA credits have been requested. Skip the registration line by pre-registering at: [https://fieldcrops.cals.cornell.edu/content/field-day-registration](https://fieldcrops.cals.cornell.edu/content/field-day-registration).

July 16 ............ **Management of Internal Parasites in Sheep & Goats**. From 10 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. at CCE Ontario, Canandaigua, NY. Internal parasites are the number one health problem affecting sheep and goats. This workshop is designed to help producers develop IPM programs for their farms. The workshop will provide hands-on training in using the FAMACHA Anemia Guide, and health exams to determine the need for de-worming. Participants will receive a FAMACHA Guide® and IPM handouts. Microscopes will be available for the fecal worm egg identification and counting. Participants may bring a refrigerated sample from an animal. In the interest of bio-security, please wear clean clothes and shoes to the workshop and plan on changing your clothes upon returning to your own farm before doing chores. You may also bring your own microscope. Cost $25 per person, with each additional farm member $10.00. Pre-registration requested by July 12. To register call 585-394-3977 ext. 427 or email nea8@cornell.edu.

July 28—30..... **Remember the Big 6 Picnic and 4-H Youth Fair**. Held at the Ward W. O’Hara Agricultural & Country Living Museum & Dr. Joseph F. Karpinski Sr. Education Center, 6880 E. Lake Road, Auburn, NY. For a full listing of dates, activities and times, please go to: [Rememberthebig6.com](http://www.rememberthebig6.com).

August 4 ............ **New York Corn & Soybean Growers Association Summer Crop Tour**—“Optimizing Opportunities: Working Together for Cows, Corn & Soybeans.” Held at Sunnyside Farms in Scipio Center, NY. Runs from 8 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. For more information call the New York Corn & Soybean Growers Association at 585-689-2321.

August 9—11. **Empire Farm Days**. Held at the Rodman Lott and Son Farms, 2973 State Route 414, Seneca Falls, NY 13148. Developed to bring farmers the newest equipment, info & techniques. The best and largest outdoor ag trade show in the Northeast! For more information go to [empirefarmdays.com](http://empirefarmdays.com).

**NYSERDA OFFERS NO-COST ENERGY AUDITS**

NYSERDA launched the Agriculture Energy Audit Program in March 2016. The Program offers farms and on-farm producers no-cost energy audits that provide recommendations for energy efficiency measures. The Program also offers assistance identifying and accessing funding to implement the measures identified in the audits. Three levels of audits are offered:

**Level 1**: This walk-through energy audit provides a summary letter with limited evaluation of feasible energy efficiency measures. This level is ideal for smaller operations with minimal energy use or for quick assessments.

**Level 2**: This detailed energy audit analyses the farm’s previous year’s utility bills along with equipment specifications and run-time information for that equipment. This information will then be used to help calculate estimated energy savings for energy efficiency upgrades on the farm. The comprehensive report will provide a list of recommended measures with associated energy and cost savings and measure payback. This audit meets ANSI/ASABE 612 standards. This level is the most common and the best option for most farms.

**Level 3**: This energy audit is focused on a specific system, energy efficiency measure, or renewable energy. This report is ideal for operations with a complex system to be analyzed beyond standard energy efficiency upgrades, or if the farm is interested in renewable energy.

Once the audit report has been completed, NYSERDA’s program implementer, EnSave, will assist each farm in identifying the most appropriate measures to implement and programs to pursue for implementation funding. There are several options available, including programs through utilities and the federal government.

Funding for audits is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Call 800-732-1399 or email [aeeep@nyserda.ny.gov](mailto:aeeep@nyserda.ny.gov) to discuss program options and obtain an application.
Planting cover crops in rotation between cash crops -- widely agreed to be ecologically beneficial -- is even more valuable than previously thought, according to a team of agronomists, entomologists, agroecologists, horticulturists and biogeochemists from Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences.

"As society places increasing demands on agricultural land beyond food production to include ecosystem services, we needed a new way to evaluate 'success' in agriculture," said Jason Kaye, professor of biogeochemistry. "This research presents a framework for considering a suite of ecosystem services that could be derived from agricultural land, and how cover crops affect that suite of services.

"Cover cropping is one of the most rapidly growing soil and water conservation strategies in the Chesapeake Bay region and one we are really counting on for future improvements in water quality in the bay. Our analysis shows how the effort to improve water quality with cover crops will affect other ecosystem services that we expect from agricultural land."

The research, published in the March issue of Agricultural Systems, quantified the benefits offered by cover crops across more than 10 ecosystem services. Benefits included increased carbon and nitrogen in soils, erosion prevention, more mycorrhizal colonization -- beneficial soil fungus that helps plants absorb nutrients -- and weed suppression.

Lead researcher Meagan Schipanski explained that commonly used measurements of ecosystem services can be misleading due to the episodic nature of some services and the time sensitivity of management windows.

"For example, nutrient-retention benefits occur primarily during cover crop growth, weed-suppression benefits occur during cash-crop growth through a cover crop legacy effect, and soil-carbon benefits accrue slowly over decades," she said. "By integrating a suite of ecosystem services into a unified analytical framework, we highlighted the potential for cover crops to influence a wide array of ecosystem services. We estimated that cover crops increased eight of 11 ecosystem services. In addition, we demonstrated the importance of considering temporal dynamics when assessing management system effects on ecosystem services."

Trade-offs occurred between economic metrics and environmental benefits, said Schipanski, who was a postdoctoral scholar at Penn State when she led the cover crop study. Now an assistant professor in the department of soil and crop sciences at Colorado State University, she noted that the planting of cover crops will become more attractive if fertilizer prices rise or if modest cost-sharing programs like the one currently in place in Maryland are developed.

Researchers simulated a three-year, soybean-wheat-corn rotation with and without cover crops in central Pennsylvania, which presented agroecological conditions broadly representative of the Northeast and mid-Atlantic regions. The cover crop rotation included red clover, frost-seeded into winter wheat in March, and winter rye, planted after corn was harvested in the fall. The research, funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, used simulated management practices, including tillage, synthetic fertilizer use and mechanical weed control.

The planting of cover crops already is accepted as an environmentally prudent practice. It is so beneficial, in fact, that the National Resource Conservation Service last month set a goal to increase the acres planted nationally in cover crops from the current 2 million to 20 million by 2020.

According to NRCS, in 2006 only 5 percent of cropped acres in the Chesapeake Bay region had cover crops planted every year, and 88 percent of acres never had any cover crops planted. In 2011, 52 percent of acres had cover crops planted at least once every four years, and 18 percent of acres had cover crops planted every year. The NRCS estimated that the increased annual use of cover crops in 2011 led to an average 78 percent reduction in sediment loss, 35 percent less nitrogen surface loss, a 40 percent cut in nitrogen subsurface loss, and a 30 percent decrease in total phosphorus loss.

But many farmers have not planted cover crops because they have not seen financial incentives to do so, according to Kaye. That is largely because the traditional method of calculating the economic value of cover crops used by agricultural producers -- only estimating the resulting increase to cash-crop yields over a short period -- was not compelling.

"The most common metrics for evaluating cropping systems are grain and forage yields and short-term profitability," he said. "Within this context, cover crops are treated as a tool to be used only if they do not interfere with cash-crop production."

In addition to Schipanski and Kaye, the researchers included Mary Barbercheck, professor of entomology; Margaret Douglas, doctoral candidate in entomology; Denise Finney, doctoral candidate in ecology; Kristin Haider, former master's degree student in plant science; Armen Kemanian, assistant professor of plant science; David Mortensen, professor of weed ecology; Matthew Ryan, former postdoctoral scholar at Penn State and now assistant professor at Cornell University; John Tooker, assistant professor of entomology; and Charles White, extension associate in entomology.
Changes Coming to the F, G & Z Endorsements for Farm Vehicles

Effective July 11, 2016 Federal regulations and New York State law are amended to change the term "farm vehicle" to “covered farm vehicle”, to define covered farm vehicles, and to include a new “Covered Farm Vehicle designation” requirement.

Under the new law, a covered farm vehicle is defined as a vehicle or combination of vehicles registered in this state which must:

- have a covered farm vehicle designation (Designation as a New York State Covered Farm Vehicle (form CFV-1))
- be operated by the owner or operator of a farm or ranch, or an employee or family member of an owner or operator of a farm or ranch
- be used to transport agricultural commodities, livestock, machinery or supplies to or from a farm or ranch
- not be used for for-hire motor carrier operations, exclusive of operation by a tenant pursuant to a crop share agreement to transport the landlord’s crop
- not be used to transport hazardous materials.

Where can a covered farm vehicle be operated?

1. A single or combination covered farm vehicle weighing over 26,000 pounds may only be operated in New York State and within 150 air miles of your farm or ranch.
2. A covered farm vehicle weighing 26,000 pounds or less may be operated anywhere within New York State and in any other state as long as the state honors the Covered Farm Vehicle designation.

Please note: If your vehicle displays a “FARM” plate, it may only be operated within 25 miles of the farm.

What effect does this have on license holders operating vehicles over 26,000 lbs. with an F or G endorsement?

If you currently have an F or G endorsement, or are applying for one, effective July 11, 2016, you must have a Designation as a New York State Covered Farm Vehicle form (CFV-1). The CFV-1 serves as proof that you have the Covered Farm Vehicle designation and are exempt from needing a CDL to operate a covered farm vehicle. You must keep a copy of form CFV-1 in each covered farm vehicle that you operate, as it indicates to law enforcement personnel that you are exempt from CDL requirements and the above-mentioned federal regulations. This vehicle may be operated anywhere in United States, as long as the state honors the covered farm vehicle designation.

What are the benefits of having a CFV-1?

The Covered Farm Vehicle designation means that you are exempt from needing a commercial driver license (CDL) to operate a covered farm vehicle. It also means that you are exempt from federal regulations related to:

- Hours of Service
- Medical certification
- Drug testing
- Inspection, repair and maintenance requirements (State requirements still apply)

You may download copies of the CFV-1 from the DMV website at Designation as a New York State Covered Farm Vehicle (CFV-1), or obtain them at your local DMV Office.

What effect does this have on current license holders with the Z endorsement?

On July 11, 2016 the “Z” endorsement will be removed from your license record.

If you no longer transport farm hazardous materials and wish to obtain a new license document without the “Z” endorsement, you may apply for a replacement license after July 11, 2016. You may obtain the replace your license at any DMV office or online at https://dmv.ny.gov/driver-license/replace-license-or-permit.

If you wish to continue to transport farm hazardous materials on or after July 11, 2016, you must first obtain a commercial driver’s license (CDL), and undergo a criminal history check, as required by section 501 (6) of the NYS Vehicle and Traffic Law and section 383 of the Federal regulations.

To obtain a CDL with an H endorsement, you must:

- Take the appropriate written tests, and depending on which vehicle class you are applying for (CDL A, B or C), you may be required to obtain a commercial learner permit (CLP) and take and pass a skills test in a representative vehicle. You may also be required to pass a written test for the "H" hazardous materials endorsement.

Complete Application for a Hazardous Materials Endorsement (HAZ-44), and make a copy of one or more of the legal status documents that are listed on the form. Mail the completed form and a copy of your legal status document(s) to:

HazMat Unit
NYS DMV
6 Empire State Plaza
Albany, NY 12228

Continued ...
Changes Coming to the F, G & Z Endorsements for Farm Vehicles continued . . .

Contact MorphoTrust Enrollment Solutions to schedule fingerprinting. Fingerprinting is done by appointment only. Contact MorphoTrust to select a fingerprinting location, schedule an appointment, and get information about the required fee at www.identogo.com or call 1-877-472-6915. The fees are $148.50 for the background checks and a fee for MorphoTrust to perform the fingerprint service.

Complete Request for NYS Fingerprinting Services – Information Form (HAZ-600), and bring it to your appointment along with your NYS CDL and one of the second proofs of ID that are listed on form HAZ-600. If you did not pay the fees when you scheduled your appointment, you must pay the fees at the time you are fingerprinted.

What does the new law say?

Section 1. Subparagraph (vi) of paragraph (b) of subdivision 2 of section 501 of the vehicle and traffic law is REPEALED.

§ 2. Subparagraph (i) of paragraph (b) of subdivision 4 of section 501-a of the vehicle and traffic law, as amended by chapter 36 of the laws of 2009, is amended to read as follows:

(i) a personal use vehicle or a covered farm vehicle or a combination of such vehicles;

§ 3. Subdivision 7 of section 501-a of the vehicle and traffic law is REPEALED, subdivision 8 is renumbered subdivision 7, and a new subdivision 8 is added to read as follows:

8. Covered farm vehicle. (a) A vehicle or combination of vehicles registered in this state, which (i) displays a covered farm vehicle designation issued by the commissioner, (ii) is operated by the owner or operator of a farm or ranch, or an employee or family member of an owner or operator of a farm or ranch, (iii) is used to transport agricultural commodities, livestock, machinery or supplies to or from a farm or ranch, (iv) is not used in for-hire motor carrier operations, exclusive of operation by a tenant pursuant to a crop share farm lease agreement to transport the landlord's portion of the crops under that agreement; and (v) is not used for the transportation of hazardous materials.

(b) A covered farm vehicle with a gross vehicle weight or gross vehicle weight rating, whichever is greater, of more than twenty-six thousand pounds may only be operated within one hundred fifty air miles of the farm or ranch.

(c) The commissioner shall, by regulation, designate an endorsement or endorsements for the operation of covered farm vehicles with a gross vehicle weight or gross vehicle weight rating of more than twenty-six thousand pounds. Such endorsement or endorsements shall be required to operate such a covered farm vehicle or combination of covered farm vehicles. The identification and scope of such endorsement or endorsements shall, at a minimum, include a distinction between the operation of a covered farm vehicle having a gross vehicle weight or gross vehicle weight rating of more than twenty-six thousand pounds and the operation of a combination of covered farm vehicles having a gross vehicle weight or gross vehicle weight rating of more than twenty-six thousand pounds.

(d) For the purposes of this subdivision, the gross vehicle weight of a vehicle shall mean the actual weight of the vehicle and the load.

§ 5. This act shall take effect on the ninetieth day after it shall have become a law.

Field Cull While Removing Garlic Scapes for a Healthier Future

From: VegEdge, Volume 12 issue 08
Written by: Christy Hoepting, CCE Cornell Vegetable Program

During the bulbing phase of garlic development is when weak plants become evident. Most growers remove the scapes (seed stalk) from their hard neck varieties to ensure that the plants put all their resources into bulb production instead of dividing them with production of seed stalk and seed. During the process of removing scapes is a great opportunity to rogue out and cull any weak plants. Pull anything that looks stunted, yellow, or sickly. Doing so now when you can see the whole plant is much more accurate than bringing it into the drying area, where damaged bulbs can start to look ok, despite harboring problems which could spread to your other garlic.

There are several causes of weak garlic, but fusarium disease and garlic bloat nematode can be propagated to next year’s crop through infested seed. Also, the nematodes and disease can move out of the plant and into the soil and spread from there. Do not discard culls in an area that may distribute the nematode across your farm from surface water run-off.

Garlic bloat nematode (GBN) can easily be confused with Fusarium disease and is often associated with Fusarium disease. GBN is characterized by bloating of the scales and their separation from the basal plate. If you suspect garlic bloat nematode, you may have your bulbs or soil tested through NYSEAS. Only samples from within NY State are accepted. Keep samples at room temperature and send as soon as possible after collection. For garlic, select up to 10 bulbs (per sample) with potential damage caused by bloat nematode. Cost: $40/sample (bulbs or soil). For more information and submission form: http://rvpadmin.cce.cornell.edu/uploads/doc_325.pdf
The New York Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health is bringing the National Education Center for Agricultural Safety Grain Bin Rescue Simulator from Peosta, Iowa, to New York state for the August 9-11, 2016 Empire Farm Days.

National Education Center for Agricultural Safety Director Dan Neenan will be offering 20-minute educational presentations throughout each day of the agricultural expo at Rodman Lott and Son Farms in Seneca Falls, and providing firefighters and emergency rescue personnel with a free 4-hour, hands-on training opportunity after the show closes on Tuesday, August 9 and Wednesday, August 10.

The free training from 6 pm to 10 pm for firefighters and EMS personnel with Neenan, a Paramedic Specialist with a Firefighter Specialist degree, includes one hour of classroom time and three hours of hands-on experience with the Grain Bin Rescue unit filled with 110 bushels of grain.

Trainees will practice lockout and tag out and extrication of engulfed victims. Personnel must bring their own bunker gear, including safety glasses and respirator.

Registration for the special training is required by contacting NYCAMH Agricultural Safety Specialist Jim Carrabba at 800-343-7527 ext. 2216, jcarrabba@nycamh.com.

Each day on the half-hour of the August 9-11 show from 9 am to 5 pm on Tuesday and Wednesday and 9 am to 4 pm on Thursday Neenan will offer 20-minute safety education demonstrations with information on the four most common ways people become entrapped in grain bins, the equipment every bin operator should have on site, and how to protect yourself from grain dust and mold when working near a bin.

According to Michigan State University Extension, it can take less than 10 seconds for an average adult to become completely submerged in a grain bin accident. The Grain Bin Rescue Simulator will be among the hundreds of exhibits at the farm show that is the largest of its kind in the Northeastern U.S. Additional sponsorship for the grain bin rescue demonstrations is provided by Farm Credit East and the NY Farm Bureau Member Services Safety Group 486.

Empire Farm Days features 300 acres of equipment displays, field demonstrations, live animals, seminars, safety presentations, rural living resources, antique tractors, and more. Find details at empirefarmdays.com.

For persons unable to attend the Empire Farm Days demonstration, there is an additional demonstration being offered August 12, from 7 a.m. until 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. until 12 noon at Sunnyside Farms, Inc. 2231 Indian Field Road, Scipio Center, NY. Registration is required. E-Mail Jim Carrabba jcarrabba@nycamh.com or call 800-343-7527 ext. 2216.

NY FarmNet

What is NY FarmNet? NY FarmNet is a free and confidential consulting service available to any farm located in New York State. FarmNet has a network of consultants, who work one-on-one with farm families to resolve financial and personal issues.

Why do farmers call NY FarmNet? Farmers turn to FarmNet for help because it is a neutral third party with no political or financial agenda. In addition, our confidentiality policy means that farmers can feel comfortable about calling for assistance.

What happens when I call NY FarmNet? You will speak confidentially with a staff member who is knowledgeable about agricultural issues. Depending upon your needs and concerns, FarmNet staff can supply information, make a referral, or put you in contact with a FarmNet consultant. You will be asked to provide your name, address, phone number, and general farm data, all of which are kept confidential.

If you are confidential service, then why do you request name, contact information, and farm information? We collect this data in order to provide the best service to you. Farm data and location are necessary to determine regional and farm-type resources. Individual farm information is not shared with anyone.

How much does it cost? FarmNet services are provided to farmers at no cost.

How can you provide services for free? NY FarmNet is funded through grants, contracts and sponsorships (both public and private). The main sponsor of FarmNet is the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets (NYSDAM), but there are many other sponsors that may vary from year to year.

Who are you affiliated with? FarmNet is housed and administered by Cornell University, and is coordinated with Cornell Cooperative Extension.

Can FarmNet help me if I don't have a computer of my own? Yes! FarmNet has a 24/7 phone line at 1-800-547-3276 (FARM) that you may call to request service. The "net" in FarmNet refers to the network of services and resources that are available to support farm families and businesses.
Performance of Northwest NY Region Dairy Farm Businesses in 2015
—Preliminary Results

By: John Hanchar and Joan Petzen,
Cornell University's NWNY Dairy, Livestock, and Field Crops Program

Summary

- Whole milk sold per cow was relatively stable, milk receipts per hundredweight (cwt.) fell 26.7 percent to $18.49 per cwt. When compared to 2014.
- In 2015, the operating cost of producing a cwt. Of milk was $16.01, a decrease of 6.7 percent relative to 2014.
- As of May 10, 2016, preliminary results indicate that Northwest New York region (NWNY) dairy farms in Cornell University Cooperative Extension’s Dairy Farm Business Summary (DFBS) Program achieved lower levels of profit in 2015 compared to 2014—for example, in 2015, the rate of return on all assets without appreciation averaged 1 percent compared to 12.5 percent in 2014.

Introduction

The results reported here represent averages for the following.

Size of Business

- The average number of cows per farm for 2015 to date is 920, compared to 783 in 2014
- Worker equivalents per farm are 20 and 17 for 2015 and 2014, respectively.
- Tillable acres totaled 1,715 and 1,445 for 2015 and 2014, respectively.

Rates of Production

- Milk sold per cow averaged 25,092 in 2015 compared to 24,759 pounds in 2014.
- Hay dry matter per acre fell 5.6 percent to 3.6 tons, while corn silage per acre fell from 20 to 17.4 tons.

Income Generation

- Gross milk sales per cow decreased from $6,247 in 2014 to $4,639 in 2015, a decrease of 25.7 percent.
- Gross milk sales per hundredweight (cwt.) fell from $25.23 to $18.49.

Cost Control

- Dairy feed and crop expense per cwt. of milk fell from $9.12 in 2014 to $8.20 in 2015, a decrease of 10 percent.
- In 2015, operating cost of producing a cwt. of milk was $16.01, a decrease of 6.7 percent relative to 2014.

Profitability

- Net farm income without appreciation per cwt. of milk averaged $0.75 in 2015, a decrease of about 88 percent compared to 2014.
- Rate of return on equity capital as a percent without appreciation fell 99.3 percent in 2015 from 16.20% in 2014.
- In 2015 the rate of return on all assets as a percent without appreciation was 1 percent, a decrease of 91.7% relative to 2014.

Final Thoughts

Owners of dairy farm businesses cooperate in Cornell University Cooperative Extension’s DFBS Program for the purpose of identifying strengths and weaknesses by comparing their results to results of other cooperators.

Now Available

The Cornell Small Farms Program is pleased to announce the new Baskets to Pallets Teaching Manual (1st Edition). Produced in collaboration with Cornell Cooperative Extension and Northeast SARE, the lesson plans in the Manual are intended for an audience of small and mid-scale farmers in New York and the Northeast, who have primarily direct marketing, but who are seeking to explore wholesale markets—specifically groceries, food hubs, restaurants or cooperatives. The Manual contains a series of presentations, discussions, activities, videos and other teaching resources that an agricultural service provider can adapt to meet the needs of local farmer audiences. For more information, contact Project Manager Violet Stone at vws7@cornell.edu or 607-255-9227.

100 Top Dairy Counties in the USA

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<td>Wyoming</td>
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Five New York Horses Confirmed with Equine Infectious Anemia

By: The Horse Staff
Submitted by: Dorothy Slegle, 4-H Extension Educator

Five horses in New York were diagnosed with equine infectious anemia (EIA) on March 4, according to the Equine Disease Communication Center (EDCC). All five cases—confirmed by the New York State Department of Agriculture and Markets, Division of Animal Industry—are at one Cortland County farm, which is home to 10 draft and buggy horses. Animal health officials have quarantined the farm and its resident horses, according to the EDCC report.

Equine infectious anemia (also known as “swamp fever”) is a viral disease that attacks horses' immune systems and is most commonly detected with the Coggins test. The virus is transmitted through the exchange of body fluids from an infected to a noninfected animal, often by blood-feeding insects such as horseflies, and more rarely through the use of blood-contaminated instruments or needles.

Once an animal is infected with EIA, it is infected for life and can be a reservoir for the spread of disease. Obvious clinical signs of the disease include progressive loss of condition along with muscle weakness and poor stamina. An affected horse also could show fever, depression, and anemia.

Cayuga County FSA Reporting Dates

Cayuga County USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) announced that producers who file accurate and timely reports for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage can prevent the potential loss of FSA program benefits. Please pay close attention to the acreage reporting dates below for 2016. All producers are encouraged to visit the Cayuga County FSA office to file an accurate crop certification report by the applicable deadline.

**July 15, 2016:** Spring Small Grain Seedings, Corn, Soybeans, CRP, and All Other Crops

**August 15, 2016:** Cabbage, Green Beans

Exceptions apply, any questions can be directed to the FSA office.

Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) policy holders should note that the acreage reporting date for NAP covered crops is the earlier of the dates listed above or 15 calendar days before grazing or harvesting of the crop begins.

For questions regarding crop certification and crop loss reports, please contact the Cayuga County FSA office at (315) 253-8471 ext. 2.